

THE NEWS OF HUNGARIAN PHILATELY

Volume: 42 / Number: 1

January - March 2011

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*Remembering the 90th anniversary of Lajtabánság
1921-2011*

SOCIETY FOR HUNGARIAN PHILATELY

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Published Quarterly / Copyright 2011

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Established 1969

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The Society for Hungarian Philately (SHP) is a non-profit organization chartered under the laws of the State of Connecticut and is devoted to the study of every aspect of Hungarian philately. SHP publishes a quarterly newsletter in March, June, September, and December. Manuscripts for publication may be sent to the Society's address listed above. The articles published herein represent the opinions of the individual authors and the content is not to be construed as official policy of this Society or any of its officers. All publication rights reserved for SHP. Articles from this journal may be reprinted with the written permission of the Editor and the authors only. Back issues of the newsletter may be purchased for \$3.00, postpaid, (when available).  
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Annual membership dues are **\$18 (\$19 if paid by Paypal)** for members whose addresses are in the United States. For members residing in all other countries, the dues are **\$25 (\$26 if paid by Paypal)**. Dues are payable in January in advance for the calendar year. Payment of dues entitles members to receive the newsletter, to participate in the sales circuit and the quarterly auctions, and to exercise voting rights. Send dues payments to: The Treasurer, P.O. Box 802, Powell, WY 82435-0802 USA. Paypal payment may be made to **treasurershp@wir.net**.

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This issue closed on 1 February 2011

The next issue will close 1 May 2011

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THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

by **Bill Wilson**

Szervusz!

I hope this reaches all of you after a very merry Holiday Season and a Happy New Year. Things are already starting out well for the Society in 2011. Our Treasurer, Wes Learned, has advised us that the Society has a strong financial footing. That is outstanding. In addition, I am happy to announce that we have a new Vice-President, Lyman Caswell. He has some outstanding qualifications for the position and will make a great VP. Welcome to Lyman.

We also have three new life members I would like to recognize and thank them for their support and always appreciated contributions to the Society and its members. These three distinguished and honored members are: Dr. Alvin Francik #378, Gabrielle Ivany #343 and Andrew Dora #366. Again congratulations for a much deserved honor.

I anticipate this may be a bonus year for us and I'm looking forward in the future to discuss with you our thoughts and ideas on increasing our membership, the APS Stampshow being held in Columbus, Ohio, and discussions we'll share with you regarding electronic notifications for renewing membership dues.

Also, I'm working on a slide presentation of Hungarian Philately which we ultimately will be sending to the APS as part of their slide presentation program. If anyone has a specific philatelic item they would like to see in the slideshow please send me an email and attach it with same. I'll get back to you if I have any questions. As a side note regarding the APS Stampshow it would be great if everyone would give consideration to attending if possible. The dates are August 11-14. I've already received feedback that indicates attendance looks promising.

Our Treasurer, Wes Learned, asked me to remind members to be sure to pay their membership dues if they had not done so already. The "Pay 3 years" discount program has been very popular, and I would encourage our members to take advantage of it.

That about wraps it up for now. As always, "Keep bélyegezni!"



REMEMBERING JIM FRANZ

by **Csaba L. Kohalmi**

Jim's membership number was 125 that meant that he joined SHP in 1970, about the same time I did. Recently, I was perusing the offerings of Dave Allego, a stamp dealer/long time acquaintance from the East coast, at a stamp show in Indianapolis. His items included some interesting and scarce Hungarian postal stationeries. Whom did you rob, I asked? The gems were items from Jim Franz's extensive postal stationery collection. Although I have never met Jim, I did correspond with him. Life did not deal him the best of hands, but Jim bore his health problems stoically. All along, he enjoyed postal stationeries immensely! In a tribute to Jim, I would like to illustrate a couple of his gems on the back cover of this newsletter. The first is a perforated postal card, printed in strips of six and designed to be used in a typewriter. While this Hungarian-Croatian card saw philatelic use not as intended as a part of business transaction, it is still a scarce, unusual item. Next, the D-level illustrated was a novel way of creating discount postal stationery using advertising revenue. Unfortunately, it, too, turned out to be a failed proposition, but the effort left behind a beautiful, scarce philatelic memento. In the end, it was that Jim who left us a fine philatelic legacy.



KUDOS

Congratulations to our exhibitors! **Alfred Kugel** received the Grand Award, a gold medal, the American Philatelic Congress and the Postal History Society award at Indypex with the exhibit titled *The Expansion of Greece 1897-1922*. Mr. **Kugel** also received a gold for the one frame exhibit *American Intervention at Vera Cruz 1914*. **Robert Morgan** received a gold medal at the 2010 Filatelic Fiesta with the exhibit *Air Mail during Hungary's Hyperinflation May 1 - July 31, 1946* (92

The News Of Hungarian Philately

Days). **Lyman Caswell** received a gold at SEAPEX with the exhibit titled *Hungarian Postage Dues between Inflations, 1926-1945*. At BALPEX 2010, **William Maddocks** received a gold medal for the exhibit *The Postal System in Bosnia-Herzegovina: 1878-1919*. At the same show, **Jay Carrigan** received a gold medal, the APS 1940-1980 Medal of Excellence, and the German Philatelic society gold for the single frame exhibit *Free Franking for Displaced Persons: British Postal Zone of Germany 1945-47*. Also, **Alfred Kugel** earned a vermeil and the German Philatelic Society vermeil with the exhibit titled *Allied Occupation of the Former German Colonies 1914-1922*.

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IN MEMORIAM - Andor Bér (1909-2010)

Mr. Bér was a noted Hungarian philatelist, exhibitor, and author.

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SOCIETY FOR HUNGARIAN PHILATELY Treasurer's Report - Year Ending December 31, 2010 submitted by Wes Learned, Treasurer

Beginning Balance 1-1-2010 (Checking - First National Bank)	\$1,463.72	Expenses:	
		Newsletter:	
		Printing	1741.59
Income:		Postage	1374.13
Auctions	268.90	Envelopes	131.01
Donations	42.00	Labels	40.65
Sales:		Other Expenses:	
Book Sales	0.00	Postage (Board)	31.91
Sales Circuit	0.00	State of CT Corp. Filing Fee	50.00
Bound Editions	0.00	Display Ad - Am. Philatelist	0.00
News Ads	0.00		
Dues	2712.63	CD Interest Roll-over	176.36
Interest (checking)	5.03	Total Expenses	3545.65
Interest (1 yr. CD)	116.70		
Interest (91 Day CD's)	59.66	Ending Balance 12/31/10:	
Total Income:	3204.84	First National Checking	1122.99
Redemption 91 Day CD	0.00	First National CD's (91 day)	7698.56
Beginning Balance plus Deposits	4668.64	First National CD 1 Yr	11303.50
		SHP Auction Account	1000.00
		Total Assets	\$21,125.05

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RESIGNATIONS

It is never was an easy decision to separate one's self from a project that one devoted so much time to; but, there always comes a time when it is wise to leave things behind. Life member **Richard Stark** and European member **Jan Verleg** expressed their desire to resign from our Society for personal reasons. Both have made contributions to our philatelic wealth of knowledge on the pages of this newsletter and we wish them all the best.

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AUSTRO-HUNGARIAN POST OFFICES INDEX

Postkursbureau des K.k. Handelsministerium: "Verzeichnis der Post- und Telegraphen-Ämter in Österreich, Ungarn und in Bosnien-Herzegovina so wie der Österreichischen Postanstalten im Fürstentum Liechtenstein und in der Levante (Index of Post and Telegraph Offices in Austria, Hungary and Bosnia-Herzegovian as well as Austrian Postal Institutions in the Principality of Liechtenstein and in the Levant)," 31 July 1910, 542 pages. This is the official list of all post offices and agencies, railroad postal routes, and sea post routes run by the Austrian and Hungarian post offices. It includes information on the level of postal and telegraph service at each office and the routing to get mail to each office. If you have any interest in the postal history of Austria-Hungary, this is a must for you.

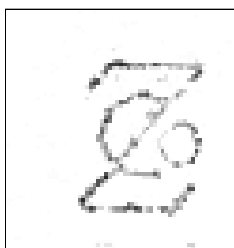
The Index is available on CD from Mrs. Joyce Boyer, the Librarian of the Austrian Philatelic Society (Great Britain) at a price of £10.00 plus postage. The CD contains pictures of the original pages and is not searchable. If you wish to use PayPal the cost is £11.00. You may contact Mrs. Boyer via email: joyceb@d-lweb.net to purchase the CD.

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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Hi Csaba,

I received **The News of Hungarian Philately** today and as always, it is most welcomed as one of my favorite philatelic diversions. I have a couple of comments:



Regarding Charles Sandberg's letter to the editor, the imprint, shown on the left, he refers to is likely the signum of Zumstein and Cie, well respected dealers and expertisers in Bern. Their firm was founded in 1905 and their mark can easily fit within the post WWI time period.

Secondly, I truly enjoyed part 4 of Alan Soble's monograph, as I have the other three sections. Alan's topic really strikes home with own collecting interests. The ending of my Bosnia exhibit features several covers used in Bosnia in the post-WWI period with unobliterated cancellers dated well into 1921.

One small correction - Alan's statement in the description of *Figure 61* "Thus the day, '18,' is wrong," I believe, is in error. Serbia was using the Julian calendar at the time, 13 days behind the Gregorian calendar used in Austria-Hungary and most of the rest of Europe. Thus a receiving date in Belgrade 12 days earlier than the posting date in Brcko is correct (allowing one day for travel - the 6th of May in Belgrade was the 19th of May in Brcko). The sender, having written the post card entirely in Cyrillic was likely Serbian and was also using the old calendar. It was not until the end of WWI that Serbia switched to the Gregorian calendar (at least for postal and business matters).

I am not sure I agree with his "endonym/exonym" theory of "better/worse" since the whole point of bilingual cancels was to allow the indigenous population who may not have read Austro-Hungarian to understand the name on the cancel. But, I'm sure many have derived this meaning even during contemporary usage.

Best regards,

Bill Maddocks

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ANNOUNCEMENT

SHP member **Jack Urish** of Dallas, TX has been appointed Treasurer of the Hungarian Multicultural Center, Inc., 2503 Costa Mesa Drive, Dallas, TX 75228.

The HMC is primarily involved in the arts, sponsoring artist and exhibitions in Hungary and in the US. Artist residencies and workshops are held several time yearly in Hungary, with artists attending from all over the world. Films from Hungary and concerts are held in Dallas bimonthly.

For more information, contact Beata Szechy at 214-324-0078 or by email: bszech@yahoo.com. The website of the organization is www.hungarian-multicultural-center.com.

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OBLITERATIONS AND THEIR ABSENCE: Elaborations, Emendations, Extensions (Part 5)

by Alan Soble

VI. FIUME

In Part II of this essay, I expressed interest in two aspects of post-WW1 Fiume stamps and cancels. First, I showed that Hungarian cancellers were still being used well after WW1, at a time when Fiume already had indigenous postal adhesives, thereby producing ideologically incongruous postal items. Second, I defended (through illustrations) the claim that the crown of St. Stephen in Hungarian cancellers had been obliterated or tampered with more frequently in Fiume than in any other ex-Kingdom, post-war area. All I wish to do here is provide additional illustrations of Fiume stamps cancelled with obliterated crowns of St. Stephen (*Figures 112-114*). The main point is that these obliterations are not difficult to find; the frequency of obliteration in Fiume remains the highest among the post-war territories. *Figure 111* shows two examples of unobliterated crowns of St. Stephen on Fiume stamps. Note that the stamps bearing unobliterated cancels were issued in 1919, as were the stamps bearing obliterated crowns. Obliteration and the absence of obliteration occurred at roughly the same time.



Figure 111. Two post-war Fiume stamps cancelled with the crown of St. Stephen and the Hungarian date format. (Desaturated images are on the bottom.) On the left is a red Fiume ScC 47, SG 72; on the right is an orange Fiume ScC 53, SG 75. Both stamps are dated 919 SEP 20. (A busy day for philatelists, or for one philatelist.)



Figure 112. A post-war Fiume stamps cancelled with a Hungarian canceller without the (partially scratched out) crown of St. Stephen; the date format is no longer Hungarian. The stamp is a blue Fiume ScC 27, SG 32, dated May 10, 1919.



Figure 113. Three post-war Fiume stamps cancelled with a Hungarian canceller without the (partially scratched out) crown of St. Stephen; the date format is no longer Hungarian. Left: an orange Fiume ScC B7, SG 82 (date incomplete). Center: a gray Fiume ScC B6, SG 81 (date possibly April 20, 1919). Right: a red Fiume ScC 30, SG 36 (dated May 30, 1919).



Figure 114. Two more post-war Fiume stamps cancelled with a Hungarian canceller without the (partially scratched out) crown of St. Stephen; the date format is no longer Hungarian. On the left is a red Fiume ScC 41, SG 49 (dated April 1919); on the right is an olive green Fiume ScC 43, SG 51 (dated May 30, 1919).

VII. CROATIA

I have emphasized that Hungarian cancellers were used in Romania well after WW1, into 1922. But, which I did not sufficiently notice earlier, Hungarian cancellers were also used in Croatia well after the war, at least into 1921. This is mildly surprising because Croatia was quick, in late 1918, to declare its independence from Hungary. For the same reason, it is also provocative that a slew of ideologically incongruous postal items flowed through or from the post-war Croatian postal service. The much desired and speedily attained (albeit short-lived) autonomy of Croatia should have exerted pressure against late usages of Hungarian cancellers and should have been a stimulus to make the nationalization of the post as consistent as possible, that is, free of ideological confusion.

In the section on Yugoslavia in Part II, I focused on ideologically incongruous postal items. I have several additional items to display here. I also want to demonstrate the point about late usages of Hungarian cancellers and to provide evidence that the defacement of Hungarian cancellers occurred in Croatia. I'll take care of the former first and move smoothly to the latter.

Figures 115 and 116 show two covers cancelled "Zagreb" in January 1921. These covers fell into my lap; I was not at the time specifically looking for late usages of the Hungarian canceller in Croatia. Observe that into 1921 nothing about the Hungarian canceller has been changed: the crown of St. Stephen remains and the date format is Hungarian.



Figure 115. Two sides of a cover sent registered from Zagreb on 919 JAN 14 to Drežnik, Serbia (a receiving strike is dated 18 JAN 21). The front of the cover is on the left, and on the right is the back, which contains the franking: a block of twelve copies of blue Yugoslavia *ScCI* 3L4, *SG* 58 (1919).



Figure 116. A cover (cropped) sent registered from Zagreb to Zagreb; it was cancelled on the front 921 JAN 19 and 921 JAN 20 on the back. The stamps (clockwise from top left) are a blue Yugoslavia *ScCI* 3L30, a brown 3L46, and a brown 3L27. Inset: the cover's bilingual registration etiquette is shown slightly blown up.



Figure 117. A parcel card (cropped), cancelled in Zagreb, 7 JUL 921. The stamps (clockwise from the left) are a deep blue-black Yugoslavia ScCI 5, a brown 11, and an orange-brown 10. They were produced by the American Bank Note Co. (see the inscription across the bottom of the stamps).

The situation is quite different in *Figure 117*. The cancel on this parcel card — dated six months later, 7 JUL 921 — has been changed in two ways: first, the date format is no longer Hungarian and, second, the crown of St. Stephen is missing.⁶² It is missing because it was the scratched-out victim of feminine obliteration. In Part II, *Figure 37* was offered as a lone case of possible Croatian obliteration. If that illustration was not very convincing, this one should be. The effacement of the top portion of the canceller, below the town name, seems obvious. The franked and postmarked parcel card is, as a result, only barely ideologically incongruous. Indeed, the card itself did not come from remaining Hungarian stock but is an indigenous Yugoslavian parcel card.

There are a few ideologically incongruous items that I'd like to display. The first image (*Figure 118*) shows two partially obliterated registration labels. These masculine obliterations do not come close to achieving "nationalization of the etiquette." The label in the lower left, which was attached to a cover that was cancelled, by an old style Hungarian canceller, "Istvánvölgy" (Torontál megye), is a left-over Hungarian registration label, still laying around in a post office drawer on June 14, 1920. (The labels had an admirable shelf-life.) The Hungarian "Ajánlott" was ineffectually crossed out by hand. The town name "Istvánvölgy" was also crossed out by hand, and some sort of printing device was used to place the endonym (Hajdučica) in Cyrillic on the label. Less amateurish, even if equally ineffective, are the four changes made to the Hungarian registration etiquette shown in the inset of *Figure 118*. In this case, it could be that one hand-held printing device, an inked rubber stamp, was used to apply, all at the same time, obliterating lines across "Ajánlott" and "Ujvidék" as well as the endonym "Novi Sad" and "Preporučeno," the Serbo-Croat word for "registered." Of course, the job might have been done by two smaller, separate rubber stamps. But the principle of charity prompts us to imagine that all the changes to the etiquette were accomplished by a technologically superior method: a single, swift four-pronged stroke of one rubber stamp. (Maybe even one large rubber stamp that applied the four marks to every registration label in an entire pane.) The etiquette in *Figure 116* (which is on the front of a 1921 Zagreb cover) is an attractive bilingual registration label that eschewed obliteration; the absence of an obliteration was meant to acknowledge the multiethnicity of the population (in the same way that Czech cancels between the two wars were bilingual and reconciliatory).

Figure 118. Cover (cropped) sent registered from Istvánvölgy to Mende. The two obliterations and the addition of the endonym to the registration etiquette are in black ink. The stamps (left to right) are a brown Yugoslavia ScCI 3L27 and a red 3L31. Inset: an on-cover Hungarian registration label subjected to otiose masculine obliterations. The two lines that strike out the Hungarian words and the two inserted Serbo-Croat words are in light purple ink.



The second ideologically incongruous postal item is shown in *Figure 119*. The crucial point is not just that on this post card, as on many other Croatian covers, we find the antagonistic mixture of an anti-Hungarian obliteration (the overprint on the stamp) and a cancel that includes a prominent crown of St. Stephen. On this card there occurs the lovely irony of a combination of an overprint that dishonors, by obliteration, the crown of St. Stephen (on Károly's head), and a cancel, less than a centimeter away, that re-establishes and honors the crown of St. Stephen. The Croatian postal service, on its toes, quickly prepared stamps for use after WW1, both overprinted Hungarian stamps as well as indigenous stamps. The overprinted Károly stamp was already available for postal use in November 1918 (*SG*, p. 769), the month the war officially ended (the stamp in *Figure 119* was cancelled 918 DEC 28). This exuberance over political autonomy is inconsistent with the crown of St. Stephen remaining on cancellers for so long, or at all. As I asked about Slovakia: Why not an abundance of canceller obliterations? It is interesting that Croatia decided to obliterate the Károly stamp's crown of St. Stephen by overprinting it with a peaceful *flower*. Croatia did not resort to the more emphatic and disdainful ugly black box type of masculine obliteration (see Part I, *Figure 1*).⁶³ Perhaps the choice of a flower was meant as a respectful, gentle elimination of the Hapsburg line from the political life of Croatia.

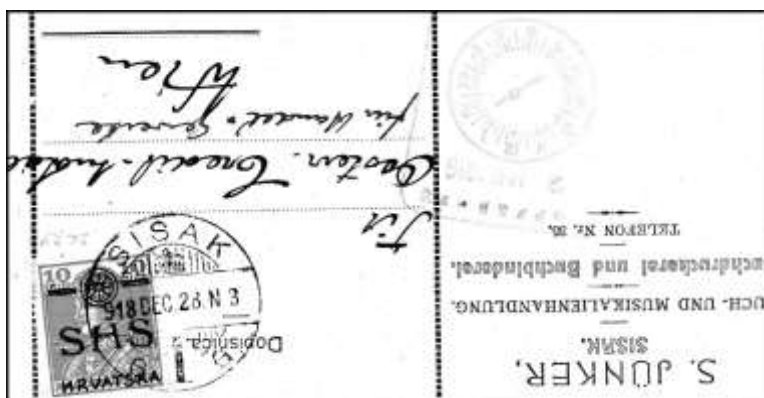


Figure 119. Post card (slightly cropped) sent from Sisak (Hungarian exonym: Sziszek) to Vienna. It is dated, in Hungarian format, 918 DEC 28, arriving 2 JAN 1919. The stamp is a red Yugoslavia ScCI 2L24, made available November 1918. The original Hungarian stamp, also produced in 1918 (the end of August), is Hungary Sc 127, MP 242.

ingruity is a parcel card sent from Vinkovci (Hungarian exonym: Vinkovce) to Vienna (*Figure 120*). I have already mentioned that mixed-frankings during “transitional” periods are a type of ideologically incongruous postal item. But this card is an unusual mixed-franking. The card is dated, in Hungarian format, 919 FEB 14, and the cancel includes the crown of St. Stephen. By February 1919, however, Croatia had already overprinted Hungarian stamps with “SHS” and other marks, and already had in stock new indigenous stamps. This parcel card (which was printed entirely in German and bears the coat-of-arms of Austria) was partially franked by two varieties of these indigenous stamps, made available in January 1919. The third stamp, on the right in *Figure 120*, is not what we would have expected it to be: either another copy of an indigenous stamp or, if one was not available (*but why not?*), a Hungarian stamp overprinted “SHS” for use south of the border (available by late 1918). The third stamp on this parcel card, however, is a pure Hungarian emission, a Queen Zita stamp without any overprint, which makes the card more ideologically incongruous than it had to be (that is, in virtue of the unchanged Hungarian canceller used on new Croatian stamps). Hence I suspect that this card (I have the entire, not a cut square) was philatelically inspired even if it also served a legitimate postal use.

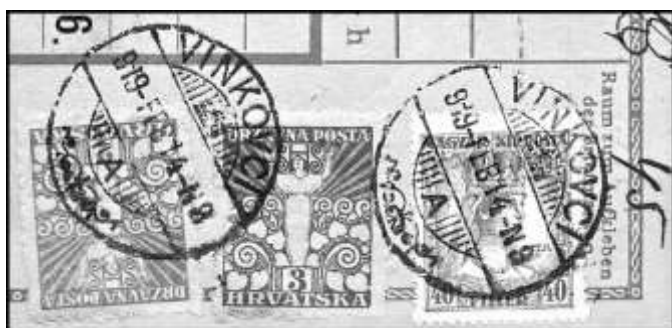


Figure 120. The upper right portion of an Austrian parcel card sent from Vinkovci to Wien, 919 FEB 14. It is franked with (left to right) a brown-orange Yugoslavia ScCI 2L32, a purple 2L33, and an non-overprinted olive-green Hungary Sc 131, MP 246. (The “SHS” overprinted Queen Zita is Yugoslavia ScCI 2L27.)

Before finishing this section of the essay and leaving this geographical area, I would like to display two cancels on stamps that were issued, according to **Scott**, for use in Slovenia. (These and similar stamps were, of course, used elsewhere south and southwest of the new Hungarian border, as shown in Part 2 of this essay.) If these stamps were actually used in Slovenia, which had been an Austrian part of the empire (e.g., Laibach/Ljubljana), the obliterations leaving large empty spaces in the cancellations (*Figure 120A*) are exactly what we should expect to discover (sooner or later). We see in these images the same type of feminine obliteration that we saw on stamps cancelled in Moravia, Bohemia, Silesia, Bosnia, and Poland. Therefore, add “Slovenia” to the list of former parts of the empire that, after the war, defaced the cancellers of the old order by cutting out what was nationalistically and ethnically offensive.



Figure 120A. *Feminine obliterations on the cancels of two Slovenian stamps (left to right): a green **ScCI** Yugoslavia 3L18; a brown **ScCI** Yugoslavia 3L13. The Chainbreaker is cancelled “2 VIII 20.” The orientation of the date indicates that the major town name, in the circle at the top of the cancel, has been obliterated (the German exonym).*

VIII. HUNGARY

Twice in the 20th-century history of Hungary has the government been controlled by Communists. First came a period, from March 21 until August 1, 1919, that included the brief reign of Kun Béla and the Soviet Republic. Second, there was a much longer period, instigated by the USSR, from August 18, 1949 (technically and *de jure*, although roughly two years earlier *de facto*) until October 23, 1989. In both periods postal material was produced that fits nicely into our discussion of the obliteration of cancellers and ideological incongruity.

VIII-1. The 133 Days of 1919. Communism is opposed, philosophically and politically, to any kind of monarchy (and favors a “People’s Republic”). Consistently, the (later) Hungarian-Communist postal administration severed the head of Franz Josef from its 1951 stamp-on-stamp reproduction of Hungary **Sc** 2 on **Sc** B208 (**MP** 2 and 1257; see this image in Part I, *Figure 2*; see also the images in note 34, Part 3). A capable, energetic, and well-organized Hungarian-Communist postal administration, during these four-plus months of 1919, and not knowing that it would soon collapse, would have eliminated both the crown of St. Stephen from cancellers and the “Kir.” abbreviation of “Királyi” from postal emissions. A change from “Magyar Kir. Posta” to “Magyar Posta” had already been made on the Harvesters and Parliaments of January 1919 (**Sc** 174-197, **MP** 271-294), which makes good sense: the Emperor-King was dead. The change was retracted in 1920, after which “Kir.” reappeared on Hungarian stamps, but only until 1923.⁶⁴ Because of the elimination of “Kir.,” the 1919 Hungarian-Communist postal service had to target only the crown of St. Stephen on cancellers. About this symbol of corrupt and degenerate aristocracy, the 1919 Hungarian-Communists did nothing, perhaps because they were distracted by warfare (in Slovakia, for example) and the machinations needed to keep themselves in power. So ideologically incongruous postal items (through the *absence* of an expected obliteration) were unavoidable. The later Hungarian-Communist postal administration (see below) had no trouble accomplishing this ideologically necessary feat.

The first postage stamps issued during the 1919 Communist period are Hungary **Sc** 198-202, **MP** 296-300, which appeared June 12 (and were valid to November 30). The first stamp in the series is a portrait of Karl Marx (296) and the last (300) is a portrait of his colleague in both political activity and philosophical writings, Friedrich Engels. A philatelist to whom I shall ever be indebted created the cover shown in *Figure 121*; it bears the entire set and six clear Budapest cancels dated

June 23, 1919, two days late of being a first-day cover. The ideological incongruity is obvious: the crown of St. Stephen, with all its negative connotations (for Communists), is part of the cancel that obliterates (in the ordinary philatelic sense) Marx and Engels — as if saying “The Crown [or St. Stephen] Still Rules.”



Figure 121. A set of Marx-Petőfi-Martinovics-Dózsa-Engels on a cover dated June 23, 1919, and cancelled, with the crown of St. Stephen, in Budapest.

Of course, a business cover, or one containing a letter, greeting card, or death notice, franked with Marx and/or Engels, would have its own special philatelic interest and value, but I have none. I do have a handful of apparently genuinely postally used copies of the Marx stamp, one of which is shown in *Figure 122*. What is cute about this cancelled stamp is that it goes one tiny step beyond its ideological incongruity: the crown of St. Stephen, including the bent cross, parked itself squarely in the middle of Marx’s forehead. Even better would have been a cancel that succeeded in positioning the crown on the top of Marx’s head.⁶⁵



Figure 122. A Marx stamp cancelled (with the crown of St. Stephen) in Budapest, dated 919 JUN 24.

The 1919 Marx-Engels set was honored at least twice by the later Hungarian-Communist postal service, and not because **Sc 198 (MP 296)** was the first stamp ever to commemorate Karl Marx. In March 1949, a stamp-on-stamp design was issued; one of the stamps depicted was the Marx

stamp. This 1949 stamp is shown in *Figure 123*. Its inscription reads (roughly) “In memory of the Hungarian Soviet Republic, 1919-1949,” that is, the Thirtieth Anniversary of Kun Béla’s regime and the first Hungarian Soviet Republic. The other item is not a stamp, but a collectible souvenir sheet, issued in 1985 and listed in **MP** under the category “Magánkiadások” (see *Figure 124*). This sheet reproduces all five stamps from the 1919 Marx-Engels set. However, instead of celebrating the Hungarian Soviet Republic of 1919, this emission from the second Hungarian-Communist regime celebrates *itself* — for having gloriously finished forty years (1945-1985) of maintaining and supporting Hungarian freedom (“szabadság”).⁶⁶



Figure 123. Hungary Sc 842, MP 1085 (1949), depicting Sc 198, MP 296 (1919).



Figure 124. A non-postally valid souvenir sheet issued by the Hungarian National Federation of Stamp Collectors in 1985, depicting Hungary Sc 198-202, MP 296-300 (1919).

The 1919 Marx-Engels set and the reproductions of 1949 and 1985 are inscribed “Magyar Tanácsköztársaság” on the stamps as part of their design. The only other stamps issued during this Hungarian-Communist regime were the early 1919 “Magyar Posta” Harvesters and Parliaments overprinted, in red and on either two or three lines, “Magyar Tanácsköztársaság” (Sc 203-222, MP 301-320; issued July 21). I have lots of these overprinted stamps in my collection, both mint singles and mint blocks of four, but only a handful of copies that seem to be genuinely postally used.

All these overprinted stamps cancelled with the crown of St. Stephen are ideologically incongruous. I have one sheet of paper, probably prepared by a philatelist-patriot with a sense of humor, on which most of these overprinted stamps are attached, each cancelled 919 AUG 2, the day after the end of the Tanácsköztársaság. (The overprints were valid for postage to November 30.) *Figure 125* shows one of these favor-cancelled stamps. I also have a pair of puzzling used overprints, the two of mine that bear the fullest crown of St. Stephen cancel (*Figure 126*). The overprinted stamps were not released until July 21, 1919, yet the date on the cancels of these two stamps is 919 MÁR 4. In case you are wondering: as far as I can tell, the cancel is on top of the overprint. Must we conclude shenanigans in the post office?



Figure 125. A red “Magyar Posta” Parliament overprinted “Magyar Tanácsköztársaság,” originally Hungary Sc 190 which became Sc 216 (MP 287 became 314). Favor-cancelled in Sopron on 919 AUG 2.



Figure 126. Two overprinted “Magyar Posta” Parliaments, originally Hungary Sc 194 and 197, which became 219 and 222 (MP 291 and 294, which became 317 and 320). The cancel date on both is 919 MÁR 4. (The images are desaturated.)

VIII-2.⁶⁷ The 40 Years of Rákosi Mátyás et al. I have expressed wonder over the fact that we do not find, in territories that had been part of the Kingdom of Hungary and gained their independence or a preferred realignment after the war (especially Slovakia, but also Romania and Croatia), defaced Hungarian cancellers with the crown of St. Stephen radically obliterated in either a masculine or feminine fashion. The kind of thing I expected to see (*a priori*), and which I have seen very little of, is nicely captured by the drawing in *Figure 127*. This is a diagram of the ideal case of obliteration: the crown of St. Stephen is altogether removed, leaving a blatant, well-defined, conspicuous empty space (which screams at the viewer that the crown is *gone*, in more ways than one), and the date format is no longer the Hungarian year-month-day. No obliteration of the crown of St. Stephen that I have displayed in this essay is as perfect as this ideal case. Not to worry, the ideal does exist: the perfect obliteration, one that was not produced by Slovakia, Romania, and Croatia (all of which surely had good reason to aim for purity), was accomplished by the post-WW2 Hungarian-Communist postal administration. It had equally pressing motives, and it excelled in producing perfectly obliterated crowns of St. Stephen.



Figure 127 (left). A drawing by Z. Kvasnička of a “Rajec” (same name in Hungarian and Slovakian; Trencsén megye) obliterated Hungarian cancel found on an early Czechoslovakian stamp (see note 57, Part 4).

Figure 128 (right). The (cropped) back of a registered airmail cover (which contains two stamps meant to complete the amount due for postage, and for which there was no room on the front) sent from Pécs to Argentina, dated 951 APR 16. That the crown of St. Stephen is missing through a feminine obliteration is obvious. The stamps are a light red Hungary Sc 946, MP 1273 (1951), and a black Sc 377, MP 1182 (1950). The front side is franked with the complete set of farm livestock, Sc 929-932, C87-C90, MP 1208-1215 (1951). The return address indicates that the cover was sent (and probably prepared) by Dr. Palotás Zoltán, who is the author of the essay referred to in note 60, Part 4.



The rest of this section is devoted to displaying the product of the Hungarian-Communist postal service. *Figures 128-132* show some perfect “Rajec”-style cancels on Hungarian stamps, put there by Hungarian cancellers in Hungarian post offices. *Figure 133* compares the elegant crown of St. Stephen cancel and what is nearly the ugliest cancel ever created by any postal administration. *Figure 133* also shows another type of feminine obliteration of the crown.



Figure 129. Cover sent from Budapest to Denmark, dated 947 SEP 15. All three cancels are the same, but the one in the upper left exhibits most clearly the removal of the crown of St. Stephen (see *Figure 130* for a close-up). The stamps are one green Hungary Sc 795, MP 1000 (1946), and an attached pair of red-brown Sc 793, MP 998.



Figure 130. From the cover shown in *Figure 129*, the cancel on the upper left, blown up to show more clearly the “Rajec”-style of the cancel.



Figure 131. Top left corner of a Levelezőlap sent from Budapest to Massachusetts, dated 949 FEB 17. The cancel is “Rajec”-style, missing the crown of St. Stephen. The stamps are (left to right): a red-brown Hungary Sc C47, MP 1011 (1947), and a red Sc C45, MP 1009.

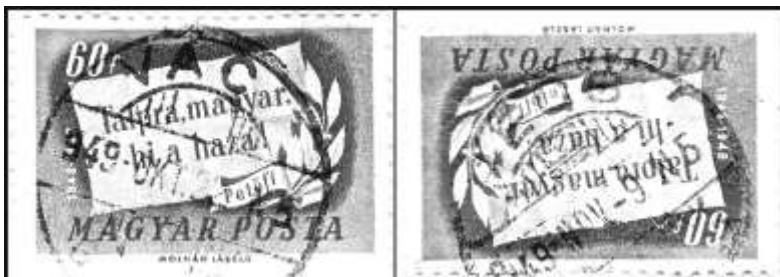


Figure 132. Two copies of the reddish Hungary Sc 835, MP 1054 (1948). The left copy, cancelled in Vác on 949 OKT 22, exhibits a “Rajec”-style feminine obliteration of the crown. The right copy, cancelled in Pécs on 949 NOV 9, still has the crown of St. Stephen.



Figure 133. A comparison between the crown of St. Stephen cancel and one type of post-WW2 Hungarian-Communist cancel. This type, in which both the crown and the vertical bars are missing, was common. The solitary “Posta” is not a town name, even though it occupies the town name area of the cancel. The stamps are (left to right): an orange Czechoslovakia ScC 7, SG 12 (cancelled “Nagymihály” [Zemplén megye; now Michalovce], dated 919 DEC 12); a yellow Turul, Sc 48 (1900), MP 69 (cancelled “Sepsi Szent György” [now the Romanian Sfântu Gheorghe, in Transylvania], dated 902 SEP 1); and a desaturated image of Sc 856 (1949), MP 1106, dated 49 XII 15. The stamps in the set Sc 856-858, MP 1106-1108, are inscribed “Magyar Népköztársaság.”

IX. APPENDIX



IX-1. At the end of Part II, I expressed amazement, given the ideological importance of symbols during wartime, that a WW1 Hungarian tábori post card was not cancelled with the crown of St. Stephen. I later learned (from Csaba Kohalmi) that no WW1 tábori cancels included the crown, and that the crown was not added to tábori cancels until WW2. I was still amazed. The images in *Figure 134* will bring us up to snuff on this matter.

Figure 134. Two formal/official and two informal/unofficial Hungarian tábori post cards, all cancelled “Tábori Postahivatal.” The two bottom cards are from WW1, dated 917 APR 19 and 917 APR 3. Neither cancel includes the crown of St. Stephen. The two top cards are from WW2, dated 40 VIII 5 and 940 SEP 1[?]. One cancel includes the crown of St. Stephen, the other does not.



IX-2. In Part II, I showed a few Austrian military stamps cancelled with the crown of St. Stephen. Since then, I have found one more example (see *Figure 135*); these are another elusive class of stamps. The “T” at the bottom of the cancel on the stamp in *Figure 135* is an intriguing mark.

Figure 135. A reddish-brown Western Ukraine ScCI 52 (May 5, 1919), an overprinted Austria Sc M57 (1917), dated (perhaps) 919 AUG 19. The desaturated image on the right helps (marginally) with the details.

IX-3. At the end of Part II, in note 29, I had written: “I also wonder about the use of Hungarian ‘surviving’ cancellers in the parts of Árva megye and Szepes megye that went to Poland. Did they exist and were they used on early Polish covers?” A good start toward an answer to this question comes from Leslie Ettre.⁶⁸ At least, there should be “Jablonka” surviving Hungarian cancels while the town was in Czechoslovakia on its way to being absorbed into Poland. I’ve been searching for the right cancel for over a year. These are bound to be more difficult to find than Slovakian bilingual cancels.

NOTES



62. For the record, here is a Croatian cancel (Crikvenica, a town not listed in **MN**), dated July 919, on which the crown of St. Stephen is retained but the date format is changed.



63. I cannot help pointing out these analogous philatelic decorations: the flower Croatia used to obliterate the crown of St. Stephen on the Károly stamp, and the flower in the upper left and right corners of the Hungarian stamps of 1871. Both flowers have eight petals and are surrounded by a white circle. The stamp on the left is a brown Yugoslavia **ScC** 2L25; the one on the right is a green Hungary **Sc** 8, **MP** 9.



64. Starting in 1923, Hungarian stamps were inscribed “Magyarország.” But “Kir.” made another appearance: it was used again beginning with the Szent István set of January 1938 (proceeding, but just in time for, the Visszatért) and continuing through the summer of 1945. This retro-change, after fifteen years, from the secular “Magyarország” to the royal “Magyar Kir. Posta,” resulted in ideologically incongruous postal emissions, including Hungary **Sc** 525-527, 555-556, and 570-572 (**MP** 596-598 [1938], 659-650 [1940], and 690-692 [1941]). Shown here is the profile of the Admiral on a brown Hungary **Sc** 571, **MP** 691, cancelled in Munkács, 1942.



65. This overprint, applied by a British colony or territory, had the right idea. The basic, underlying stamp is East India Company **ScCI** 11 (1885), but I found no indication of an overprint that changed the stamp’s denomination and included a crown for Victoria.



66. The second Hungarian-Communist postal administration also honored Kun Béla, on Hungary Sc 2970, **MP** 3766 (1986). The copy shown here on the left is imperforate.

67. The major idea of this section of the essay is due entirely to the insight of Csaba Kohalmi. All I contributed was the labor of the mopping-up operation.

68. "Part XXIII of the Series on Hungarica. A Plebiscite Area Nobody Ever Heard About." **News of Hungarian Philately** 4:11 (November 1973), pp. 6-7, 10-14.

Acknowledgments. Many thanks to Csaba Kohalmi for his advice and encouragement. I have pointed out several times in this essay where his input was significant. Csaba also gave me the Harvester stamp shown in *Figure 45*, provided the post card image in note 34 and the image of the

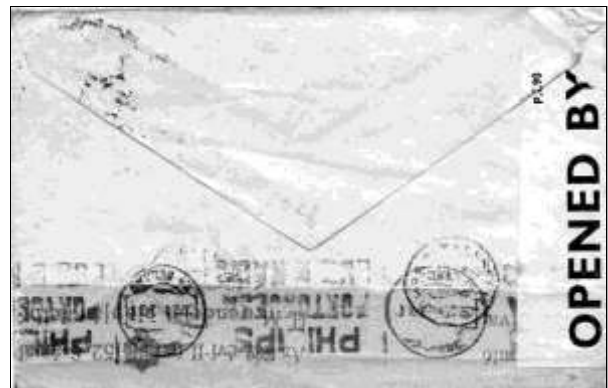
defaced shield in note 38, and sent me my first semi-copy of the article by Palotás (note 59). I know of no other editor who does as much as he does for his authors (and I know plenty of editors).



THE EDITOR'S NOTES

by Csaba L. Kohalmi

Still another Lisbon P.O. Box 506 clandestine mail cover from World War II surfaced on eBay. I'm illustrating it here for the record. It was sent from Budapest in November of 1941.



For a long time now, I have not commented on the plethora of fantasy occupation overprint (both post-WWI and post-WWII) creations being offered on eBay. It's almost a moot point that any such items being offered by sellers from Hungary are bogus. **László Filep** commented in the November **Bélyegvilág** that some of these items are so rare that they never existed! Among other things, he was referring to a Hungarian stamp overprinted with the Slovak crest, purportedly issued in Bratislava in 1944. How could such a stamp find its way to the Slovak capital in the closing months of World War II and be legitimately 'overprinted'??? I chuckled at a recently offered Borosjenő overprint on which the forger forgot his correct Rumanian grammar and used the singular form 'LEU'



on a 5 LEI stamp. Perhaps he was in hurry to 'overprint' more stamps and did not bother to make the correct picture for his laserjet printer! It's not rocket science to scan a genuine overprint, desaturate the picture, save it to your computer, and then print it on a stamp attached to a sheet of paper as it passes through your printer. Finally, you can add eBay sellers from Germany to your 'DO NOT BUY' list as a source of occupation overprints. The stuff that they offer at a starting price of one Euro also makes me want to laugh (or cry).

• A *The News of Hungarian Philately* 2010. július-szeptemberi száma az ez évi EUROPA blokkal a címlapján jelent meg. Háttoldalán egy román carte maximum lapot ismertet, amely egyben Hungarica is, mivel a bélyeg a budapesti parlamentet, míg a szelvény a magyar koronás címert ábrázolja. A hátlap arról is elmélkedik, hogy hibás a szelvény rajza, mert a határ nem a Duna déli partján, hanem a hajózási útvonalon, tehát kb. középen található. (Az újság rendszeresen közli a magyar újdonságokat). Alan Soble a bélyegzésekről és azok hiányáról írt részletes tanulmányt.

• Köhalmi L. Csaba, az újság szerkesztője rendszeresen vesz át magyarországi cikkeket másodközlésre. Ilyenkor nagy szakértelemmel angolra fordítja a magyarul korábban megjelent cikkeket és szépen illusztráltan közli azokat. Így tett ezúttal is, amikor Voloncs Gábornak a Bélyegműzeumban elhangzott „Bélyegszakértő sul” című előadást leközölte. A cikk teljes egészében magyarul és németül olvasható a Szabolcsi Bélyegújság 2010. 1. számában, így a cikk méltatása részéről elmarad, bár hézagpótló előadásról van szó, amely örömmre, immár három nyelven is hozzáférhető.

• Don Perdan „Ohne Obligo” felkiáltással eladott felülnyomások gyűjteményének darabjait mutatja be. Közte egy 2 Koronás Turul bélyeg (MBK 157) Posta Csekoslovenská 1919 felülnyomattal. Innen is üzenem neki: a bélyeg akár valódi is lehet, mivel 1919-ben számos olyan magyar bélyeg is felülnyomtak Prágában, így a MBK 157. számú 2 Koronás bélyeg is, amelyet később nem árusítottak, így hivatalosan nem került forgalomba. Javasoltam a gyűjtőnek Köhalmi L. Csaba útnán, hogy küldje el Bodor Lászlónak az eredetit, mivel ő meg tudja állapítani, hogy kincset talált, vagy közönséges hamisítványt a minden kötelezettség nélkül eladott gyűjteményben!

• Az újdonságokon kívül a 2010. évi magyar postal tarifákat is ismerteti az újság, továbbá Köhalmi L. Csaba írja szorgalmasan szerkesztői rovatát. Bob Morgan egy vámmentes pecsétre hívja fel a figyelmet, amely egy osztrák légiposta levélre került rá 1934-ben. Az apró az, hogy Amerikában működik egy postai címkéket gyűjtők munkacsoportja és ők közölték a légiposta levél fotóját. A szerkesztő folyamatosan kalandozik az e-Bayen, így onnan mutat be egy 47 S-ért elkelt 1871. május 12-én lebélyezett könyvnyomatos 5 kr-os bélyeg.

• Voloncs Gáborra hivatkozva vitatja, hogy vertesfla56 beadó két, valószínűleg hamis épületek kettős fogazatú bélyeget adott be, amelyek szerint eladásra nem is kerültek. Ugyanakkor a szerkesztő magára is gondol, de ez már nem a filatélia, legfeljebb utánpótlási kérdés: 4 gyönyörű unokájával is lefényképezte magát. Az unokákhoz szívből gratulálunk és kívánjuk, hogy váljanak bélyeggyűjtőkkel!

• Hamis, valódi ez is egy állandó kérdése a szerkesztőnek. Éppen négy Aradon lebélyezett borítékkal kapcsolatban teszi fel a kérdést. Sok sikert a megválaszoláshoz!

Dr. Lövei György



Dr. György Lövei reviewed the July-September 2010 issue of *The News* in the November 2010 *Bélyegvilág/Filatéliai Szemle* publication of MABÉOSz. He commented on the back-page illustration of the *Hungarica* postcard from Rumania, Alan Soble's article on cancellations, and the translation of Gábor Voloncs's article on detecting forgeries. He suggested that Don Perdan submit his 2K Francis Joseph stamp with *Posta Československá* overprint to László Bodor for authentication. In continuing, he mentioned the postal label collectors' society that Bob Morgan pointed out as well as the 5kr lithographed stamp that was cancelled on 12 May 1871 and sold by Jim Gaul on eBay. He wasn't quite sure if the Buildings stamps with double perforations were actually forgeries, but welcomed the continuing discussion of genuine vs. fake Arad French occupation covers. Finally, he warmed the heart of this old curmudgeon editor by mentioning how he enjoyed the picture of my photogenic grandchildren.

I read with interest last December's issue of the *Stamps of Hungary*, the journal of the Hungarian Philatelic Society of Great Britain. I admire the fact that because of the relatively short travel times in the United Kingdom, members can get together for regular face-to-face meetings. The auction at their last meeting was a huge success with 391 lots being sold. Last but not least, members regularly engage each other through the *Questions and Answers* column in the newsletter. I would be delighted to do the same, so please fire off your questions!!!

New finds on eBay: The '35' in a sheet of 50f Turul stamps error (Scott no. 96a) was discovered at the No. 1 post office in Kolozsvár (Cluj in present day Romania) in March 1915. The Kolozsvár office returned 140 sheets to Budapest. An estimated 60 to 85 stamps with the numerical error may have used postally, mostly from Kolozsvár. On eBay, a seller from Germany recently offered a pair of stamps (Scott nos. 96 and 96a) cancelled at Csetnek (Štítňik in present day Slovakia) that was used six months later on 7 November 1915 in a place far removed from Kolozsvár. My thinking is that it is highly unlikely that a philatelist would have purchased stamps in Kolozsvár and then taken them to Csetnek for use as postage either knowingly or unknowingly about the 35/50 error. Most likely, the error sheets were distributed through normal channels to Csetnek and lay dormant until they were utilized for postage. This find should open up new discussion as to how many different localities besides Kolozsvár received error sheets. The identifying marks in the printing of the normal and the error stamps were published in an article taken from the *Szabolcsi Bélyegújság* in the January-March 2008 issue of *The News of Hungarian Philately*. I was able to identify these characteristics, so there is no doubt in my mind that the pair of stamps illustrated on the left is genuine.



The Hungarian Post re-issued the stamp “Egymásért” with a new denomination to help raise funds for the victims of the ‘red sludge’ that inundated the village of Kolontár and the town of Devecser last October. A dam broke at an industrial waste site near Ajka and the resultant deluge destroyed the two settlements, claimed eight lives, and threatened to pollute the Rába-Danube river system with toxic waste. The storage site was a relic left over from the Communist era, during which there was a blatant disregard for the environment in the interest of industrialization. Nevertheless, twenty years after the change to democracy and a free market economy, the largest ecological disaster in Hungary’s history should not have happened. Funds were raised to compensate the victims and to cover the cost

of the cleanup in many ways. A novel approach was the auction of Communist-era artwork. The sale of Lenin-kitsch (see picture above) proved popular among fans of nostalgia as well as the Wende Museum of Culver City, CA. The museum that specializes in visual arts of the Cold War bought twenty-five pieces of artwork.



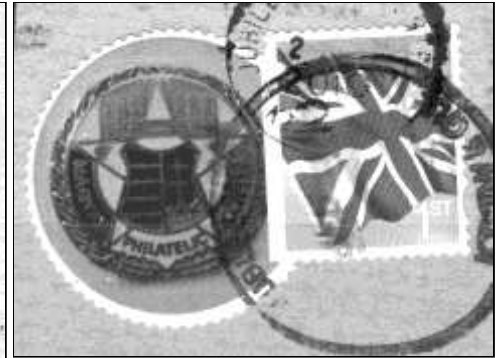
SOLD on eBay for \$1,438: Second Inflation airmail cover: Taxe Perçue, Készpénzzel Bérmentesítve Budapest 72, and Légi Posta, Budapest 72, 18 July, 1946 stamped markings, manuscript endorsed 7.5(gm), 10 (gold) c(entime) airmail surcharge for up to 10gm weight, 2.100 (million adópengő) paid in cash. The foreign letter rate for the 26th rate period was 400,000AP. The conversion rate of 10 gold centimes into pengő was 0.6 quadrillion pengő (0.6×10^{24}). The daily rate of the adópengő on July 18th was 360×10^{15} pengő; so, dividing the first number by the second gives the airmail surcharge of 1,666,666.7 adópengő. The clerk rounded up this number to 1.700 million AP and added it to the 400,000AP letter rate to arrive at the postage paid in cash of 2,100,000AP. (Based on information from **The Hungarian Hyperinflation of 1945-1946** by Robert B. Morgan, published by the Collectors Club of Chicago, 2003.) This represents a new record price paid for a Second Inflation airmail cover, and it is only the second known cover to have been sent to Sweden. July 18th was also the first day of the 26th rate period.

The quest continues for the answer regarding the mystery of ‘used’ imperforate stamp from the 1950s. As I stated in the October-December 2010 issue, with the exception of a few issues (the exceptions include the 1949 Chain Bridge, UPU, Stalin sets, the Pushkin, the 1950 Bem Stamp Day and the 1951 lilac sheet), Hungarian imperforate stamps were considered as ‘phase printings’ that were not valid for postage. Imperforate stamps became valid in 1958 (the imperforate Hungarian television stamp and souvenir sheet were the first to be used correctly on first day covers). The 1950 Flowers stamps I illustrated could have been trimmed (perforations cut off), but the 1955 Bartók stamp with tab would not have fit this description. **Gábor Visnyovszki** suggested that these stamps were printer’s waste, illegally removed and cancelled surreptitiously. **Bob Morgan** produced a first day cover of the 1951 Flowers set, cancelled at ‘Filatélia’ (the in-house post office of Philatelia

Hungarica, the marketing firm for Hungarian postage stamps). The cover had a typewritten return address (in London, England) and a mailing address (also in England) applied in ink as well as an airmail label. I think that this method of addressing is inconsistent and that the addresses may have been applied to enhance the cover. There is no arrival cds on the reverse side, so the cover probably has not have been postally used. Hungarian postal regulations required that invalid stamps NOT be cancelled but boxed in with blue crayon. Why did P-H violate postal regulations and cancel invalid imperforate stamps? How many such fictitious first day covers exist from the 1950s; and, how were they marketed by P-H?



First day cover with the imperforate flowers stamp set from 1951.



Personalized stamp for the Hungarian Philatelic Society of Great Britain

The Hungarian Philatelic Society of Great Britain (HPS) commemorated its 45th anniversary last fall with a personalized stamp featuring the Society's emblem that represents the composite of watermarks found on Hungarian stamps. HPS also produced scans of all of their archived quarterly publications, 1964 through 2010 along with a useable index. An electronic copy is available on a memory stick (USB-port compatible) for \$15. Contact David Williams, 46 Collum End Rise, Cheltenham, Glos. GL53 0PB UK. David's email is david.collumend@btinternet.com. Payment via PayPal (@ 4% surcharge) is possible.

The requirement to indentify the contents of all mail sent abroad on the outside of the envelope was implemented recently by the Hungarian Post. This regulation seems to be a step back in time to the Rákosi-Kádár era when foreign correspondence was subject to secret censorship. Technically, the move is to facilitate customs inspection. My eBay purchases from Hungary have been arriving with the standard customs label attached. The senders probably committed perjury by indicating the contents to be 'documents' or 'photos.' One of our members forwarded a letter from the Stamp Museum that accompanied his purchases from a Budapest auction house. The letter indicated that the museum did not have a claim to the stamps. This bureaucratic approach to philatelic trade also reminds me of the regulations from the bad old days when stamp exchanges with collectors abroad could occur only under the scrutiny of the MABÉOSz exchange committee. Sending stamps any other way inside envelopes abroad was considered smuggling.

The Hungarian Post's 2010 Europa Children's Books sheetlet, designed by György Kara, won the Posteurop's Europa Stamp Design contest according to the 31 January 2011 issue of **Linn's Stamp News**. This is the third year in a row that the Hungarian Post's Europa series won the award.

American diplomat Richard Holbrooke passed away last December. Mr. Holbrooke negotiated the 1995 Dayton Peace Accords that brought a cessation of hostilities in Bosnia. More recently, he was President Obama's special envoy to Pakistan and Afghanistan. He was married to journalist and writer Kati Márton, the daughter of Endre and Ilona Márton, who were imprisoned in communist Hungary 1955 on trumped-up charges of spying for the United States. The Márton family escaped from Hungary after the unsuccessful 1956 revolution. I had the pleasure of meeting Kati, whom I consider my contemporary, at a book signing in Indianapolis a couple of years ago. And, she was happy to note I wasn't the only one in the audience speaking Hungarian with her.



CZECHOSLOVAK TERRITORIAL DISPUTES WITH POLAND AFTER WWI

by László Filep

The Czechoslovak Republic was declared on 28 October 1918. Prior to this, Thomáš Masaryk, Eduard Beneš and their associates laid the ground work behind the scenes for many years. Starting in 1915, they conducted negotiations with the political leaders of the Entente Powers in the hopes of establishing a nation based along ethnic guidelines following the eventual dismemberment of the Austro-Hungarian Monarchy. The creation of the Czechoslovak Legion, whose soldiers were recruited from the monarchy's soldiers who were Entente prisoners-of-war, was a preliminary result of these talks. Thus, the national entity that did not even exist became a 'partner state' of the Entente. The 'partner state' evolved into a 'victorious nation' at the end of World War I.

The new nation was modeled on the medieval Kingdom of Bohemia and Moravia that existed as a mere Hapsburg province since the 16th century. The borders of the new Czechoslovakia were defined with the annexation of Upper Hungary under the guise of Slovakia. The final boundaries became the subject of territorial debate amongst several new nations.

Czechoslovakia and Poland disputed three regions: Těšínsko (the region of Eastern Silesia and the environs of Teschen/Cieszyn), Orava (the districts of Námesztó, Trsztena, and Vár in Árva County of the old Kingdom of Hungary), and Spiš (the districts of Kézsmárk and Szepesófalú in Szepes County).

Inasmuch as armed conflicts occurred between the Czech and Polish forces as these regions were occupied, the Entente Powers decided on a temporary joint Czechoslovak-Polish administration under the supervision of the Allied Commission starting in early February 1920. The arbitration was finalized at a conference held in the Belgian town of Spa on 20 July 1920. The joint administration ceased on the 28th of July and the areas of dispute were officially divided.

In Eastern Silesia, the Olše River (Olza in Polish) became the boundary between the two nations. Of the divided territory's 81 post offices, 30 were retained in Poland: Aleksandrowice, Bilesko nos. 1 and 2, Bilesko Stare, Bystra Śląska, Brenna, Chybie, Czechovice, Drogomyśl, Dziedzice, Golezów, Grodziec, Istebna, Jasienica k. Bileska, Jaworze, Kamienica k. Bileska, Kończyce Wielkie, Międzyrzecze Górne, Ogrodzone, Olszówka Dolna, Próchna, Pońców, Rudnica, Skocýów, Scrumień, Ustroń, Wapienica, Wisła, and Zebrzydowice Śląskie. The town of Cieszyn was divided. Thus post office no. 1 remained Polish while post office no. 2 reverted to Czechoslovakia under the new name of Český Těšín. The Czechoslovak post office on the Polish side of the border ceased operation on 8 August 1920. In addition to the Těšín post office, the following remained under Czechoslovak administration: Baška ve Slezsku, Bohumin nos. 1 and 2, Bystřice ve Slezsku, Chotěbuz, Darkov, Dětmárovice, Dobrá u Frýdku, Dolní Bludovice, Dolní Domaslovice, Dombrová (today: Doubrava), Frýdek nos. 1 and 2, Fryšát ve Slezsku, Hnojník, Horní Suchá, Hrušov ve Slezsku, Jablunkov ve Slezsku, Karlova Huť (today: Lyškovec u Frýdky), Karwín (today: Karvinná) nos. 1 and 2, Komorní Lhote (today: Komorní Lhotka), Lazný ve Slezsku, Louky ve Slezsku, Malé Kunčice u Moravské Ostravy (today: Kunčičky), Michálovice, Moravká, Návisi, Německá Lutyně, Orlová, Petrovice u Frýštatu, Petřvald ve Slezsku, Poremba (today: Poruba), Pražma, Prostřední Suchá, Pudlov, Radvanice ve Slezsku, Ratimov (today: Vratimov), Ropice, Rychvald, Skřečůň, Slezská Ostrava nos. 1 and 2, Staré Hamry, Stonava, Šenov ve Slezsku, Třinec, Velké Kunčice nad Ostravicí (today: Kunčice nad Ostravicí), and Vendryně.

In the case of the other two disputed territories, Czechoslovakia wanted to keep the old Hungarian border while Poland wanted the ethnographic boundaries. The negotiated compromise resulted in 25 settlements being transferred to Poland. (At this time in 1920, a post office did not operate in all of these settlements. An '*' indicates towns with post offices.) The list of names (Hungarian names are in parentheses) from Orava / Árva county included Dolná Lipnica* (Alsó Lipnica, today: Lipnica Wielka), Dolná Zubrica (Alsózubrica, today: Zubryca Dolna), Harkabuz (Harkabúz), Horná Lipnica (Felső Lipnica, today: Lipnica Mała), Jablonka* (Jablonka, today: Jabłonka), Oravka (Oravka, today: Orowka), Pekelník (Pekelnik, today: Piekelnik), Podskle (Bukovina-Podszkle, today: Podszkle), Podvilk* (Podvilk, today: Podwilk), Sarne (Szárnya, today: Srnie), Suchá Hora (Szuchahora), and Vysná Zubrica* (Felsőzubricza, today: Zubrzyca Góra).

The places remaining in Czechoslovakia were Bobrov (Bobró), Brezna (Brezna), Chyžné (Czhizsne), Erdutka (Erdőlatka, today: Oravská Lesná), Hladovka (Hladovka), Hruštín (Hrustin), Klin (Klin), Krušetnica (Krusetnicza), Liesek (Ljeszek), Lokca (Lokcza), Mutné (Mutne, today: Mútne), Námestovo (Námesztó), Novotín (Novoty), Polhora ž Oravská (Polhora, today: Oravká Polhára), Rabča (Rabcsa), Rabčice (Rabcsicze), Slanica (Szlanicza), Trstená (Trsztena), Tvdošín (Turdosin), Ustie ((Usztye, today: Ústie nad Priehradou), Veselé (Veszele, today: Oravské Veselé), Zákamenné (Klin-Zakamene), and Zubrohlava (Zubrohlava). In 1924, Chyžné (today: Chyžne) was transferred to Poland while Suchá Hora reverted to Czechoslovakia.

In Spiš / Szepes country, the following settlements became a part of Poland: Cernagura (Feketebérc, today: Czarna Góra), Dolná Laps (Alsólápos, today: Łapsze Niżnie), Durtstín (Dercsény, today: Dursztyn), Fridman* (Frigyesvágása, today: Frydman), Jurgov (Szepesegyhörke, today: Jurgów), Kacvin (Szentmindszent, today: Kacwin), Krembach (Bélakorompa, today: Krempachy), Lapsanka (Kislápos, today: Łapsznaka), Nedeca* (Nedecz, today: Niedzica), Novy Bela (Újbéla, today: Nowa Biała), Repiskó (Répásfalú, today: Rzepiska), Tribš* (Újterebes, today: Trybsz), and Vysná, Laps (Felsőlápos, today: Łapsze Wyżnie).

The settlements remaining in Czechoslovakia were Hanušovce (Hanusfalva, today: Spišské Hanušovce), Javorina (Javorina), Osturňa (Osztronya), Smerdžonka (Koronahegyfürdő), Spišská Strará Ves (Szepesófalú), Veľka Lesná (Kristályfalu), and Veľký Lipník (Nagyhársas).

Stamps overprinted with 'SO 1920' were in use during the joint administration. The Czechoslovak issue appeared on 13 February 1920 while the Polish ones were issued on 15 April 1920. Forty-three different Czechoslovak stamps plus one postal card were overprinted in a quantity approaching 15 million. On the Polish side, two printings totaling 10 stamps appeared. The quantity of overprinted copies is unknown. The use of postage stamps in the area was not restricted to overprinted ones only as shown in *Figure 5*. The Czechoslovak stamps were withdrawn on 11 August 1920 while the Polish ones ceased their validity on 10 September 1920.

Postal documents from Eastern Silesia are more plentiful than ones from Árva and Szepes counties. Eastern Silesia had several larger towns while Jablonka was the largest settlement in the other area and its inhabitants numbered a mere 3,000. Consequently, I'm able to illustrate several examples from Eastern Silesia while only three examples are from Árva and Szepes (consequently, these are quite rare).



Figure 1 on the left shows a postal card used before the overprinted stamps were issued. It is an Austrian 8-heller card with the portrait on Emperor Karl issued in 1917 and valid until 19 October 1919. The card was cancelled at FRÝDEK 1 on 28 March 1919. The German version of town name *Friedek* was chiseled out from the Austrian-manufactured cancelling device. The postal rate of 10 h for the card was made up with a Czechoslovak 2 h special delivery stamp.

Figure 1. Postcard sent from the joint administration zone to Moravia.

Figure 2 shows an item similarly used before the overprinted stamps were available. It was sent within the joint administration zone as a 50gm printed matter business mailing from KARWIN / KARWINA on 12 June 1919. The unaltered German-Polish bilingual canceller was left over from the Austrian postal administration. The 5-heller Hradčín franking was correct at the time; however, the envelope was not endorsed 'Tiskopis' to indicated printed matter and the Polish post office treated it as a regular letter. It assessed twice the missing postage of 20h (the internal letter rate in Czechoslovakia was 25 h) with 40 halerzy Polish postage due stamps that were cancelled TESCHEN 1 / CIESZYN 1 with a similar, unaltered bilingual, Austrian-era canceller.



Figure 2. Intra-zone mail from Karwin / Karwina to Teschen / Cieszyn. Note that the text 'österr. Schlesien' (Austrian Silesia) part of the address under 'Teschen' on the pre-printed business envelope was crossed out.

Figure 3 shows a registered postcard franked with the Czechoslovak 'SO 1920' overprinted stamps sent from joint administration zone. The basic 15f Hungarian postal card issued in 1918 was not valid after 14 October 1919 and its indicium was correctly not cancelled. The 80h franking paid the postcard rate of 30h plus registration of 50h. The SLEZSKÁ OSTRAVA 1 canceller and the registry etiquette were newly made by the Czechoslovak postal ad-

ministration. The card was posted 26 July 1920.



Figure 3 (above). Properly franked registered postcard sent from the joint administration zone to Karlsbad outside the zone.



Figure 4 (right). Front and back sides of a sealed letter card sent via the Polish administration to Hungary.

Figure 4 shows an Austrian-era lettercard overprinted 'POSTA POLSKA 25 h' used together with a 10 fenigów 'S.O. 1920' overprinted stamp sent from TESCHEN 1 / CIESZYN 1 on 26 March 1920 to Veszprém, Hungary. The card bears the circular mark of the censor office in Sopron (CENS. SOPRON) as well as the boxed marking (VÁMKÖZVETETETT) of the customs office in Sopron.

Figure 5 shows a postal card sent from the joint administration zone to Moravia outside the zone during the validity period of the SO stamps. The postal card bearing a 15h Hradžín-imprint was supplemented with a 5h Hradžín stamp to make up the 20h postcard rate. The origins of the postcard can be derived from the German-language TESCHEN imprint. The German-language railway postal canceller JABLUNKAU - ODERBERG 442 was left over from the Austrian postal administration. The railroad's starting point of Jablunkau (Jablunkov ve Slezsku in Czech, Jabłonków in Polish) is in Poland today; the terminal Oderberg (Bohumin in Czech) is in Czechoslovakia today.



Figure 5. Postal card sent from Teschen to Moravia cancelled Jablunkau-Oderberg 442, 19 June 1920.

Following the armistice in 1918, Upper Hungary was occupied by the Czech Legion and its field post offices operated throughout this period until 1920. (As a fighting force, the legion presented scant resistance to the Hungarian Red Army that successfully recaptured the area in the spring of 1919.) The next two illustrations show fieldpost mail, the origins of which can only

be ascertained from the annotations made by the senders inasmuch as the fieldpost cancellers did not include town names.

Figure 6 shows a picture postcard sent from Orava / Árva county. The origin can be deciphered from the handwritten 'Podvilku, 11 / 12 19' place and date heading atop the message. The card was sent to the Czech town of Horni Kostelec. It was cancelled by the fieldpost mail service POLNI POŠTA 20 Č.S.P. and also bears the military unit marking 'Československý střelecký pluk č. 11. 6. polní setnina.' Translated, it means '11th Czechoslovak infantry regiment 6th field company.' Today, Podvilku is in Poland.

Figure 7 shows another picture postcard sent from Spiš / Szepes county. Its origins can be traced similarly from the heading atop the message: 'V. Lipník 14 / 8 1919.' The card was sent to the Czech town of Brant near Rakovníka. The fieldpost canceller ČESKOSLOVENSKÁ POLNÍ POŠTA 46 is dated 20 August 1919. The military unit marking 'Čs. pěši pluk č. 58. 4. polní setnina' translates as '58th Czechoslovak march regiment 4th field company.'



Figure 6. Military mail sent from Árva county.



Figure 7. Military mail sent from Szepes county.

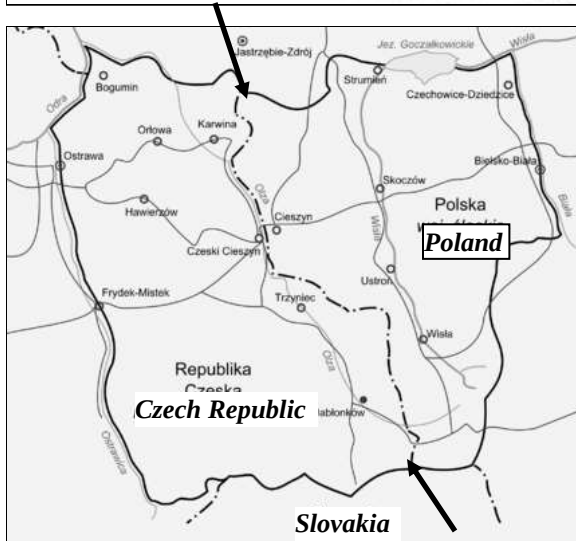
Figure 8 shows a parcel post letter of transit for a package within the joint administration zone. The 9kg parcel valued at 200 K was sent from Veselé (Veszele) in Orava / Árva county to Sámuel Schwarcz in Podvilku. The box contained glass bottles. The parcel slip was printed in Vienna in the Slovak language. The tab with the 10h indicium is missing. The parcel fee was paid with two SO 1920 overprinted Hradžín stamps in the denomination of 20h and 400h. The town cancellation VESELÉ Č.S.P. was dated 26 May 1920. The arrival postmark read PODVLK Č.S.P. Both cancellers were made for the new Czechoslovak postal administration. (My gratitude goes out to fellow collector **Sándor Cornides** for providing me the opportunity to show this scarce item.)

Following the dismemberment of Czechoslovakia in 1938, Poland occupied part of the area discussed above. After a short year passed, it was Poland's turn to be occupied by Germany in 1939. After the end of that war, Czechoslovakia reverted to its 1938 boundaries.

/Editor's note: In 1993, Czechoslovakia ceased to exist, again. The Eastern Silesian area discussed in this article now belongs in the Czech Republic. The Árva / Szepes county areas that remained in Czechoslovakia after 1920 are now situated in Slovakia. See the maps on the next page./



Figure 8. Intra-zone parcel slip franked with SO 1920 overprinted stamps.



The map on the left shows the plebiscite region of Eastern Silesia outlined with a solid line. The dashed line, marked with arrows, running nearly vertically though the region is the border between Poland (right of the line) and the Czech Republic (formerly, Czechoslovakia, left of the line) as determined by the Spa Conference in 1920.

The map on the left below shows the Árva / Orava county, presently a part of Slovakia. The crosshatched upper right corner is 'Polish Orava,' the region around Jablonka ceded from historical Hungary to Poland in 1920. The map on the right below represents Szepes / Spiš county of present day Slovakia. The crosshatched upper left corner is 'Polish Spiš,' the area given to Poland in 1920.



*



**A COMMENTARY ON LÁSZLÓ FILEP'S CZECHOSLOVAK TERRITORIAL DISPUTES
WITH POLAND AFTER WWI**

by Alan Soble and Csaba L. Kohalmi

In László Filep's article, the date of the issue of Polish stamps with an S.O. overprint was given as 15 April 1920. The same date was mentioned in the article *Eastern Silesia 1918-1920* published in the **Czechoslovak Specialist**, issue #5, 2000 (accessed at czechphilatelist.tripod.com/snejdarek). The postcard shown in *Figure 4* on page 19 of Filep's article is dated 26 March 1920 and is franked with a Polish stamp overprinted S.O. The article from the **Czechoslovak Specialist** also illustrated a cover cancelled Teschen/Cieszyn on 19 March 1920 bearing five different Polish S.O. overprinted stamps (see *Figure 1* below; note the return address: Těšín). While two examples do not necessarily a rule make, the 15 April 1920 date of issue for the Polish stamps is, in all likelihood, wrong. (The seller of the card shown in *Figure 4*, George Alevizos, provided the date "Feb. 13 [1920]" for the issuing of the Czech S.O. overprints. If that was also the date of the issuing of the Polish S.O. overprints [and why would they be different dates?], our problem is solved.)



Figure 1. Entire no. 17b from the *Czechoslovak Specialist*.

In his essay, Filep mentions that the Teschen/Cieszyn and Karwin/Karwina cancellers are "unaltered German-Polish bilingual." That is of course correct. The Czech names are, respectively, "Těšín" and "Karvin." The German name "Smichow" and the Czech name "Smichov" permitted, during the nationalization of the Czechoslovakian post, a small alteration to be made in the canceller to make it monolingual. (See note 55 in "Obliterations.") German-Polish bilingual cancellers were manufactured by the Hapsburg-Austrian post and were intended to be used in Galicia, that section of Poland – if we may use that name for the pre-WW1 territory – that was within the Empire, as opposed to the regions of Poland under the dominion of Germany and Russia. As Filep writes, "The unaltered German-Polish canceller was left over from the Austrian postal administration." An interesting question arises about the successor cancellers in the part of Eastern Silesia that was awarded to Czechoslovakia. A few years after the war and the creation of Czechoslovakia, Czech-German (reversing the order of the earlier Hapsburgian German-Czech) bilingual cancellers came into existence in the western parts (Bohemia, Moravia, and Silesia) of the new country to mollify or honor

ethnic Germans living there. In many places these bilingual cancellers replaced monolingual Czech cancellers that were provisionally made (by feminine obliteration) in roughly 1918-1920. But what about similarly-motivated Czech-Polish cancellers? In the area of the disputed and then partitioned Eastern Silesian territory that was finally incorporated into Czechoslovakia, why do we not find genuinely bilingual Czech-Polish cancels, to mollify or honor the Polish minority? This question is analogous to a central question posed in “Obliterations”: why do we not see very many bilingual Slovakian-Hungarian cancels? Surely the Hungarian minority was large enough in certain areas of (Czecho-)Slovakia to warrant being mollified or honored. Why did both the Poles and the Magyars (but not the Germans) get the short end of the stick? Another issue is raised by Filep’s illustrating “unaltered German-Polish bilingual” cancellers. It must be mentioned that in the disputed Eastern Silesia territory, altered German-Czech cancellers (by both feminine and masculine obliteration) were also in use, as well as altered German-Polish cancellers (see *Figures 2 and 3*).



Figure 2. Two Czechoslovakian S.O. overprinted stamps, each bearing a femininely obliterated German-Czech cancel. The canceller had had “Friedek” at the top and “Frýdek” at the bottom. Only the bottom Czech town name remains.



Figure 3. Two Polish S.O. overprinted stamps, each bearing a masculinely obliterated German-Polish cancel. The town Teschen/Cieszyn existed in two parts, one smaller part Czech, the other larger part Polish, divided by the Olza River. Each side had its own postal system. On one of these stamps, the German town name “Teschen” is obliterated (without total success) and the Polish name remains. Presumably, this stamp originated from the Polish side. On the other stamp, the Polish town name “Cieszyn” is obliterated (again without total success) and the German name remains. Presumably, this stamp originated from the Czech side. Why the German was obliterated on the canceller from the Polish side is understandable – this practice was occurring throughout the ex-Austrian parts of the Empire. The stamp originating from the Czech side, however, poses problems (if it really did originate there). Why weren’t both the German and Polish town names obliterated? – maybe because that would have produced a mute cancel, which was perceived as more objectionable than a cancel with a German town name, and because new monolingual “Těšín” cancellers did not yet exist. Further, why did the Czech side use Polish S.O. overprints? – maybe because the Czech side was small and relatively far removed from the bulk of ex-Austrian Czechoslovakia.

The card shown in *Figure 4* is relevant to Filep’s article. It purports to be (like Filep’s Veselé [“Árva/Orava”] parcel card) an instance of the use of S.O. overprinted Czechoslovak stamps outside Eastern Silesia. But the description provided by the seller of the post card is either misleading or false because the seller implies that this town was “incorporated into Czechoslovakia” from Eastern Silesia. On the contrary, Tovačov/Tobitschau is located near the Moravian town of Olomouc, far from Eastern Silesia. The reasons that this is an interesting card are (1) the feminine obliteration of the German name from the cancel, (2) the mixed franking (one regular Hradčany, one S.O. overprint), and (3) an S.O. overprinted stamp actually used outside of the Eastern Silesia plebiscite

area. Cards and covers canceled in Prague franked with the S.O. stamps were created by philatelists. But this item was sent from a much smaller town and is most likely not philatelic. Filep's Veselé parcel card is also probably a nonphilatelic and proper use of Czechoslovakian S.O. overprints. It does raise the question, however, whether "S.O." is an abbreviation not only of "Eastern Silesia" but also, perhaps, of "Spiš-Orava."

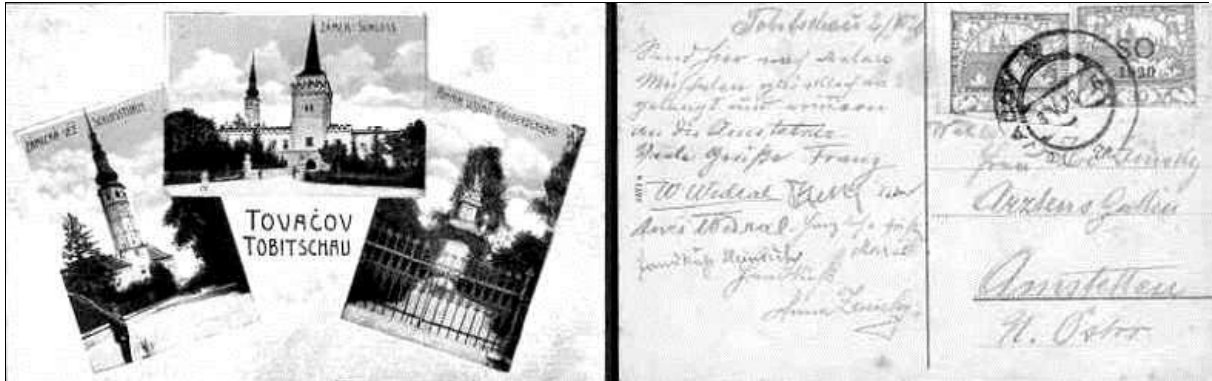


Figure 4. This card has been, for at least five months, offered on eBay for a 'Buy-It-Now' price of \$250. The seller described it as a "1920 (May) view card (of Tovačov/Tobitschau) to Amstetten Austria franked with First Issue 30h plus Czechoslovakia unovp'd. 20h tied by TOVACOV a cds, "TOBITSCHAU" excised from cancel, but ms. "Tobitschau" dateline, few tone spots, E. Silesia stamps issued Feb 13, incorporated into Czechoslovakia Jul 28, rare usage."

"Eastern Silesia" is abbreviated "S.O." because the politically-neutral French name "Silésie Orientale" was in effect in a plebiscite territory. This is also why Oberschlesien, or Upper Silesia, another plebiscite area, was called "Haute Silésie" and even had stamps inscribed with that French name, unlike Eastern Silesia, which had only overprints. To be perverse, we might suggest that "S.O." was also a backwards abbreviation of "Österreich Schlesien," the German name for that part of the Hapsburg Empire. By the way, the Czech name for "Silesia" was "Slezsko" -- see the return address in Figure 1.

Figure 5 (right). An S.O. overprinted Czech stamp apparently cancelled in Nyitra on 11 July 1919. The S.O. 1920 overprint was applied over the cancellation. The discrepancy is obvious between the date on the cancel and the date in the overprint.



Figure 6. One cannot tell from the scanned image whether the seller is correct to describe this stamp as a forgery.



P.S. (a.k.a. "What We Saw on eBay"): Readers should be warned that cancelled S.O. overprinted stamps are not always to be trusted. Forgeries abound (as well as, on stamps not on cover, meaningless

CTOs). The stamp shown in Figure 5 was included in a lot of 18 cancelled Czech S.O. overprints offered on eBay in January, at a starting bid of \$74.99. It is obvious why this overprint must be a forgery, indeed so obvious that one wonders about the intelligence or motive of the forger. The cancel is perfectly OK -- a post-WW1 use of a "surviving" Hungarian Crown of St. Stephen canceller in an area of Slovakia; the S.O. overprint was applied afterwards. Some buyers, of course, might

actually be seeking forgeries. Another eBay dealer did alert buyers that his lot of S.O. overprints contained a forgery (see *Figure 6*; is it perhaps genuine, and hence ordinary?). If we were to make a judgment about Filep's specimens, it would include at least this: being on cover, they (especially the Veselé) are much less likely to be forgeries.

✱

AIRMAIL COVER FROM 1928

by Jan-Jaap DeWeerd

I have the letter that I'm illustrating below for which I can't figure out its entire history. Maybe it could be the subject of a Question and Answer page to submit to the members of the Society and ask them for their help.



Airmail cover sent from Budapest to Wisconsin via Zürich in 1928. The arrow points to the **FOREIGN SECTION / (M.D.G.P.O.)** cancellation.

The letter was posted from the Hotel Astoria Budapest (stationery of the hotel) on 5 August 1928 to Mr. Fred Vescelus, Lac du Flambeau, Wisconsin, USA. From the handwriting we can deduce the sender was American, although his name isn't mentioned on the envelope. It was subsequently redirected to Walter Leitner Jr.

It was sent by airmail, date-stamped at the Budapest 4 Post Office at É 10 (É = nighttime), with a partially torn yellow *Légi posta / Par avion* label affixed on the front. It went through the Swiss airport of Zürich as attested by the transit stamp of Zürich Flugplatz / Luftpost / -6.VIII.28*17 (5pm) on the front of the cover. The inscription "aeropost" was added in pencil at an undetermined stage. Postage paid totals 4P60f, composed partly by the Szent István stamps from the 1928 set. These were valid only from 1 August until 31 December and are not commonly found on airmail letters. A foreign letter needed 40f for the first 20 grams and 20f for the next weight increment of 20 grams. The airmail surcharge to USA was 2P for every 20g, so this is a correctly franked second weight increment airmail letter to the USA. Under the Zürich transit stamp 'St 4p' is written in blue pencil. This is the correct indication for the airmail surcharge. Below the stamps on the front of the cover is an underlined number 3 in black pencil. What is its significance, if any?

What I can't figure out is the two-line stamp in purple on the back of the cover: **FOREIGN SECTION / (M.D.G.P.O.)**. When was it added and what does it mean? The address on the front is completed with *c/o Camp Northwoods*. Is this the place where the two-line stamp was added, was this a military camp? I have tried to contact, via internet, several institutions in Lac du Flambeau but nobody seems to know about a Camp Northwoods. */Ed's note: given that Wisconsin was and even today is a summer vacation destination, 'Camp Northwoods' was probably a summer camp for children, such as Boy or Girl Scouts. Mr. Vescelus could have been a camp councilor who had moved on by the time the letter arrived, so the letter was redirected to Mr. Leitner. The 4 pengő airmail surcharge represented a princely sum back in 1928; but, evidently, the traveling American could afford it. While in Europe, the letter was carried by air to a point of embarkation for its trans-*

Atlantic journey by ship. Once in America, it was to be forwarded by airmail to a point nearest its destination./

I would be very happy with any information that could make it possible to complete the picture of this letter and its protagonists.



2010 NEW ISSUES

Issue date: 30 June 2010

25th Formula 1 Hungarian Grand Prix

Face value: HUF 230. Stamp size: 45 x 26.7mm.

Designer: Péter Berky. The design depicts Formula-1 cars racing.

Technical details: Printed in sheets of 50 using offset by the Banknote Printers, Ltd. in an edition of 100,000 stamps.

Issue date: 6 September 2010

Synagogues of Hungary

Face value: HUF 110, 175. Stamp size: 30.4 x 45mm.

Designer: Péter Nagy. The designs depict the interior views of the synagogues of Nagykőrös and Szolnok.

Technical details: Printed in sheets of 40 using offset by the State Printing Office, Ltd. in an edition of 350,000 stamps.

Issue date: 24 September 2010

125th Anniversary of the Hungarian Gymnastics Federation

Face value: HUF 140. Stamp size: 26.7 x 45mm.

Designer: Imre Benedek. The design depicts a gymnast on a pommel horse.

Technical details: Printed in sheets of 50 using offset by the Banknote Printers, Ltd. in an edition of 200,000 stamps.



Top: Formula-1
new issue.

Right:
Synagogues of
Nagykőrös and
Szolnok.

Far right:
Gymnastics
Federation
new issue.



Issue date: 28 October 2010

Christmas

Face value: HUF 80, 105. Stamp size: 40 x 30mm (horizontal) and 30 x 40mm (vertical).

Designer: György Kara. The designs depict Christmas motifs.

Technical details: Printed in sheets of 50 using offset and gold/silver foil by the Banknote Printers, Ltd. in quantities required by postal demand.

The News of Hungarian Philately

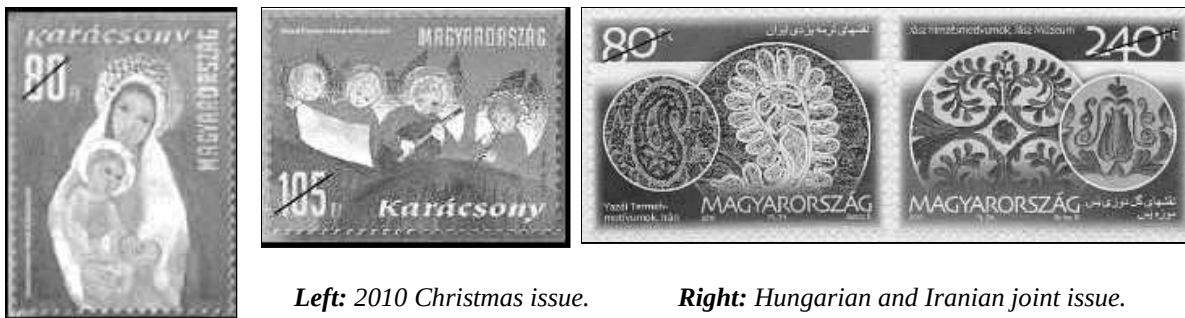
Issue date: 10 November 2010

Hungarian-Iranian Joint Issue

Face value: HUF 80, 240. Stamp size: 40 x 30mm.

Designer: Barnabás Baticz. The stamps reproduce Hungarian and Iranian design motifs.

Technical details: Printed in sheets of 50 using offset by the Banknote Printers, Ltd. in an edition of 350,000 stamps.



Left: 2010 Christmas issue.

Right: Hungarian and Iranian joint issue.

Issue date: 24 November 2010

For Each other

Face value: Domestic rate + HUF 100. Stamp size: 40 x 30mm.

This is a re-issue of the stamp that appeared in 1997. The surcharge aided victims of the red sludge disaster. The State Printing Office donated the entire press run.

Technical details: Printed in sheets of 50 using offset by the State Printing Office, Ltd. in unlimited quantities as determined by postal demand.



Issue date: 10 December 2010

History of the Olympics - 50th Anniversary of the Rome Olympics

Face value: HUF 500. Sheet size: 100 x 70mm, stamp size: 30 x 40mm.

Designer: György Kara. The design pictures the Hungarian athletes who won gold medals.

Technical details: Printed using offset by the Banknote Printers, Ltd. in an edition of 60,000 souvenir sheets.



THE TURUL BOOKLETS OF HUNGARY

by Gerhard G. Korn and Stephan I. Frater

*/Reprinted from **The Interleaf**, Journal of the Booklet Collectors Club, Vol. 9, No. 4, December 1991./*

It may come as quite a surprise to many a booklet collector that Hungary was one of the very early issuers of stamp booklets! We may all be aware that Luxembourg was first to issue postage

stamps in booklet form in 1895, any earlier efforts with revenue and telegraph adhesives notwithstanding. And, many of us also know that five years later, in 1900, both the United States and Canada followed suit with their own postage stamps. But, how many of us have also known of Hungary doing the same shortly thereafter, in March of the next year?

That was indicated with the entry of 1901 in Wulf Horst's excellent tabulation in the September issue of **The Interleaf**. According to the Hungarian handbook, the 10, 25 35 fillér booklets appeared in March of 1901. The 4 fillér booklet followed in April, and the 5 fillér booklet was issued in January 1902, in response to the change in the postal card rate from 4 to 5 fillér.

Turul, the legendary bird, refers to the stamp design which replaced the letter design in 1900, and was current till 1916. It was reissued several times with a number of different watermarks and two different perforations.

There were five separate issues of these booklets, containing the stamp issues of 1900, 1904, 1906, 1908 and 1909. All the booklets had similar covers measuring 85 mm x 43.5 mm, the only differences being in the description of the contained denomination, the total price of the booklet and any change in postal rates. There were three panes in each booklet, separated from each other and the covers by five blank, translucent and glassine-like interleaves. All panes consisted of six stamps, arranged 2x6 and were fastened, according to the **Monográfiaja**, either by an upper or lower margin of approximately 7.5 mm. They were prepared from the top and the bottom three rows of ordinary sheets on one hundred stamps. Possibly special sheets of 60 were made. The booklets were bound with 17 mm long, round wire staples. The price of all Turul booklets was equal to the face value of the contained stamps plus 2 fillér. The surcharge presumably was intended to cover the cost of manufacture.

In 1901-2 a set of five single denomination booklets was issued. The denominations were selected to satisfy the more frequently used rates, and were 4, 5, 25 and 35 fillér. The stamps contained in these booklets were printed on paper with the watermark large crown in a circle (Wmk 3).

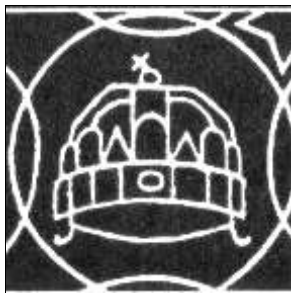
They were perforated 12 x 11 ³/₄. Only the 5 and 10 fillér booklets were later reissue, and can be differentiated by their different watermarks and perforations.

The lilac 4 fillér stamps appeared in booklets with light blue covers, and it was used to prepay domestic post cards. This rate was valid until January 11, 1902, when it was increased to 5 fillér. The green 5 fillér stamp appeared in booklets with grey covers, and it was used to prepay post cards to destinations outside of Hungary; and, after January 11, 1902, also within Hungary. The red 10 fillér stamp was contained in booklets with red covers, and it satisfied the basic domestic letter rate.

The blue 25 fillér stamp came in booklets with yellow covers, and it served to prepay the UPU letter rate. The purple 35 fillér stamps in bluish-gray booklet covers prepaid the registered letter rate. Many years later it was learned that the 25 and 35 fillér booklets must not have sold well, from the relative number the fact that they were still being used internally after 1910, mostly for telegrams and parcel post. Later Turul booklet issues only consisted of 5 and 10 fillér booklets.

In 1904 the second group of booklets was issued. It consisted of 5 fillér and 10 fillér booklets containing Turul stamps printed on paper with a new watermark, a small crown (Wmk 4). The perforations continued to be 12 x 11 ³/₄. Beginning with this issue, the inside front cover was made to reflect the rate change made January 11, 1902 from 4 to 5 fillér post cards.

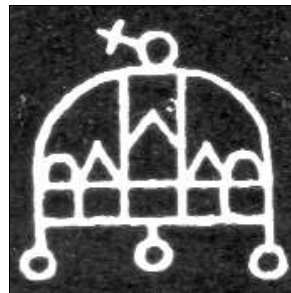
In 1906 the 5 and 10 fillér booklets were reissued. The only difference from the prior issue was the application of the much finer perforation of 15, which was continued for subsequent issues.



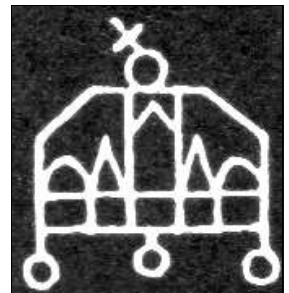
Watermark 3



Watermark 4



Watermark 5



Watermark 6



5 fillér Turul stamp,
issued in 1900, wmk 3,
perf 12 x 11³/₄

In 1908 the 5 and 10 fillér booklets were again reissued. This time the stamps were printed in paper with a new watermark, rounded crown with small rings underneath (Wmk 5). The cross on top of the crown is almost horizontal.

Finally, in 1909 the last reissue, again of the 5 and 10 fillér booklets, occurred. The stamps were printed on paper with a modified watermark the can be difficult to identify (Wmk 6). The crown is now more angular and less rounded. The cross on top of the crown is much more upright than in the previous version.

Hungarian Turul Booklets						
Year of issue	Denomination	Rate	Stamp Color	Watermark	Perforation	Cover color
1901	4	postcard to Jan. 11, 1902	lilac	3	12 x 11 ³ / ₄	light blue
	5	postcard after Jan 11, 1902	green	3	12 x 11 ³ / ₄	gray brown
	10	domestic letter	red	3	12 x 11 ³ / ₄	red
	25	UPU letter	blue	3	12 x 11 ³ / ₄	yellow
	35	registered letter	purple	3	12 x 11 ³ / ₄	bluish gray
1904	5	postcard	green	3	12 x 11 ³ / ₄	gray brown
	10	domestic letter	red	3	12 x 11 ³ / ₄	red
1906	5	postcard	green	4	15	gray brown
	10	domestic letter	red	4	15	red
1908	5	postcard	green	5	15	gray brown
	10	domestic letter	red	5	15	red
1909	5	postcard	green	6	15	gray brown
	10	domestic letter	red	6	15	red



Front cover of the 5 fillér (left) and 10 fillér (right) booklets.



Front cover of the 25 fillér (left) and 35 fillér (right) booklets.

2. Ausztriába és Lichtenstein fejedelemségbe, Bosznia és Hercegovinába és Németországba : 20 grammig 10, 20–250 grammig 20 fillér, 3. Szerbiába és Montenegróba : 15 grammonként 10 fillér 4. Romániába : 15 grammonként 25 fillér súlykorlátozás nélkül. A határállí forgalomban (a magyar-román határtól a Maros folyóig, valamint Beesterce-Naszód és a volt Szabrény vármegyékig): 15 grammonként 10 fillér 5. Svájcba : 20 grammonként 25 fillér. 6. Az 1–5 alatt fel nem sorolt többi országokba : 15 grammonként 25 fillér. B. Levelezőlapok bérmentesítési díja: 1. Belföldre, egyszerű : 4 fillér; válaszos : 8 fillér.	2. Ausztriába és Lichtenstein fejedelemségbe, Bosznia és Hercegovinába, Németországba, Szerbia és Montenegróba : egyszerű : 5 fillér, válaszos : 10 fillér. 3. Az 1–2 alatt fel nem sorolt többi országokba, egyszerű : 10 fillér, válaszos : 20 fillér. C. Nyomatványok bérmentesítési díja: 1. Belföldre : 10 grammig 2, 10–50 grammig 3 fillér, 50–150 " 5, 150–250 " 10 " 250–600 " 20, 500–1000 " 30 " 2. Ausztriába és Lichtenstein fejedelemségbe, Bosznia és Hercegovinába és Németországba : 50 grammig 3, 50–100 grammig 5 fillér, 100–250 " 10, 250–500 " 20 " 500–1000 " 30 fillér.
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1901 inside front (left) and inside back (right) covers.

2. Ausztriába és Lichtenstein fejedelemségbe, Bosznia és Hercegovinába és Németországba : 20 grammig 10, 20–250 grammig 20 fillér, 3. Szerbiába és Montenegróba : 15 grammonként 10 fillér. 4. Romániába : 15 grammonként 25 fillér súlykorlátozás nélkül. A határállí forgalomban (a magyar-román határtól a Maros folyóig, valamint Beesterce-Naszód és a volt Szabrény vármegyékig): 15 grammonként 10 fillér. 5. Svájcba : 20 grammonként 25 fillér. 6. Az 1–5 alatt fel nem sorolt többi országokba : 15 grammonként 25 fillér. B. Levelezőlapok bérmentesítési díja: 1. Belföldre, egyszerű : 5 fillér; válaszos : 10 fillér.	3. Az 1–2 alatt fel nem sorolt többi országokba : 50 grammonként 5 fillér, súlymaximum : 2000 gramm. D. Árúminták bérmentesítési díja: 1. Belföldre : 50 grammig 3, 50–250 grammig 10 fillér, 250–500 " 20 fillér. 2. Ausztriába és Lichtenstein fejedelemségbe, Bosznia és Hercegovinába és Németországba : 250 grammig 10, 250–350 grammig 20 fillér. 3. Az 1–2 alatt fel nem sorolt többi országokba : 50 grammonként 5, díjminimum : 10 fillér; súlymaximum : 350 gr. E. Ajánlati díj : 25 fillér (helyi forgalomban 10 fillér.) F. Térti vetény díja : 25 fillér (helyi forgalomban 10 fillér.) G. Tudakozvány díja : 25 fillér. H. Expresszbeszítés díja : 80 fillér. Egyezhessen a „Postai Tarifák és Postafelrakási szabályzat” módosult.
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1902 inside front (left) and inside back (right) covers.

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HUNGARIAN POSTAL RATES FOR 2011

The rate increases for the year 2011 represent small increases (HUF 5-10) for domestic rates (higher at larger weight increments) and rates to Europe and other destinations. For several classes of mail such as larger weight increments abroad, the rates were actually reduced significantly.

(US \$1 = ~ HUF 200.-)

/Information in the table was compiled from the web page of the Hungarian Post/

New Hungarian Postal Rates	1 January 2011					
(simplified version)	Domestic		Europe		Other Destinations	
	Non-priority	Priority	Non-priority	Priority	Non-priority	Priority
Standard letter ¹ to 30gm	90.-	115.-	-	-	-	-
Standard letter ¹ to 20gm	-	-	220.-	240.-	250.-	270.-
Letter up to 20gm, non-standard	-	-	280.-	300.-	310.-	330.-
Letter up to 50gm	120.-	160.-	370.-	400.-	440.-	470.-
Letter up to 100gm	160.-	200.-	600.-	650.-	650.-	750.-
Letter up to 250gm	195.-	255.-	850.-	1.100.-	1.000.-	1.170.-
Letter up to 500gm	355.-	425.-	1.600.-	1.750.-	1.800.-	1.900.-
Letter up to 750gm	585.-	705.-	-	-	-	-
Letter up to 1000gm	-	-	2.800.-	3.000.-	3.100.-	3.400.-
Letter up to 1500gm	-	-	3.800.-	4.200.-	4.300.-	4.800.-
Letter up to 2000gm	735.-	920.-	4.800.-	5.300.-	5.300.-	6.200.-
Post Card	80.-	106.-	220.-	240.-	250.-	270.-
M Bag up to 5kg	-	-	5.500.-	6.000.-	7.300.-	7.500.-
M Bag over 5kg, per kg	-	-	600.-	800.-	800.-	1.000.-

E-mail notification	55.-	55.-	55.-
Domestic parcel up to 20 kg	1.590.- (non-standard)	-	
Collect on Delivery	285.-	340.-	340.-
Registration	225.-	750.-	750.-
Certified/Tértivevény	145.-	340.-	3450.-
Official Correspondence	300.-	-	-
“delivered to addressee only	370.-	-	-
Deliver to addressee only	210.-	350.-	350.-
Declared value	350.- (up to 10.000Ft)	350.- for each 5.000Ft	350.- for each 5.000Ft

Footnote:

¹ The “Standard Envelope” dimensions are 114 x 162 mm (minimum) and 110 x 220 mm (maximum).

✱

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6	16-18	1985-1987	\$30
7	19-21	1988-1990	\$30
8	22-24	1991-1993	\$30
9	25-27	1994-1996	\$30
10	28-30	1997-1999	\$30
11	31-32	2000-2001	\$30
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